

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

Application No. 09/936,974

December 22, 2003

Attorney Docket No. P25,400 USA

Remarks

Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of all of applicant's claims is requested respectfully. Applicant's claims are subject to the following anticipatory rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

- (A) Claims 1, 2, 12, 24, and 28 to 32 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,326,344 to Levitt;
- (B) Claims 1, 2, 12, 24, 26, 27, and 29 to 32 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,177,395 to Silvaggi et al.;
- (C) Claims 1, 2, 12, 24, and 28 to 32 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,905,065 to Scialla et al.;
- (D) Claims 1, 12, 29, 30, 32, 33, 35, 37, and 38 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,252,243 to Minns;
- (E) Claims 1, 2, 12, 24, 26, 27, and 29 to 32 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,429,684 to Osberghaus et al.;
- (F) Claims 1, 2, 12, 27, 29 to 35, and 37 to 40 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,797,986 to Rolando et al.;
- (G) Claims 1, 2, 12, 24, 25, 27, 29, and 30 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,948,743 to Fonsny et al.; and

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(H) Claims 1, 12, 29 to 33, and 35 to 38 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,599,116 to King et al.

It is requested respectfully that the Examiner withdraw the §102(b) rejections for the reasons explained below.

Introduction

Applicant has adopted the Examiner's suggestion, as set forth in paragraph 26. of the Action under the heading "Allowable Subject Matter", by presenting herein generic Claim 41 which defines a composition that, relative to the composition defined in originally filed generic Claim 1 (now cancelled), includes additional recitations respecting the constituents comprising the composition. It is submitted respectfully that independent Claim 41 and the claims dependent thereon are allowable.

By way of further introduction, applicant notes that the Examiner's Action includes eight §102(b) rejections based on eight different patents. Applicant submits respectfully that various of these rejections should be withdrawn because they do not have early enough publication dates to be characterized appropriately as §102(b) references. Section 102(b) of the Patent Statute provides, in effect, that a U.S. patent is not to be granted if the involved invention was patented in any country more than one year prior to the filing date of the involved U.S. patent application. The filing date of the present application is March 17, 2000, that is, the filing date of the corresponding international application from which the present application stems. The following patents cited by the Examiner as being anticipatory publications under §102(b) do not

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have issue dates more than one year from the filing date of the present application, as set forth below.

<u>U.S. Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
5,905,065	May 18, 1999
5,948,743	September 7, 1999
6,177,395	January 23, 2001
6,326,344	December 4, 2001

In view of the above, it is submitted respectfully that the Examiner's §102(b) rejections based on the above patents be withdrawn.

Inasmuch as each of the above patents has a U.S. filing date prior to the aforementioned March 17, 2000 filing date of the present application, it is appropriate for the Examiner to consider the effect of the patents on the patentability of applicant's claims in view of §102(e)(2) of the Patent Statute; in such consideration, the Examiner should note that the international application from which the present application stems claims the priority date of two earlier-filed British applications, namely, Application Nos. 9906215.0 and 0004124.4, filed respectively on March 19, 1999 and February 23, 2000. The Examiner's Action, paragraph (13) thereof, acknowledges applicant's priority claims and receipt of the certified copies of the priority applications from the International Bureau.

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Summary of Applicant's Invention

Independent Claim 41 defines a cleaning composition which includes: (A) a detergent builder (see the present application, page 3, lines 16 to 18 and page 5, lines 3 to 22); (B) an oxygenated organic solvent which acts as a coupling agent (see the present application, page 3, lines 19 to 23 and page 5, line 23, and continuing to page 6, line 11); (C) a fatty acid alkyl ester or dibasic ester (see the present application, page 6, line 12 continuing to page 7, line 2); and (D) a surfactant (see the present application, page 7, lines 11 to 24). Advantages associated with the present invention are described in the present application on page 4, lines 9 to 11, and line 20 continuing to page 5, line 2, and page 10, lines 16 to 26.

Discussion of the Examiner's Rejections

As mentioned above, applicant's independent Claim 41 defines a composition which includes a fatty acid alkyl ester or dibasic ester. The only reference cited by the Examiner as disclosing a composition which includes such an ester is the aforementioned Scialla et al. patent. Applicant submits respectfully that the Examiner's view that the Scialla et al. patent discloses fatty acid alkyl esters is incorrect. In paragraph 10. of the Action, the Examiner has cited Column 12, lines 1 to 14 of the Scialla patent as disclosing fatty acid alkyl esters. In this section of the patent, there are references to succinate esters (for example, lauryl, lauroyl, palmityl succinates) and references to fatty acid builders (for example, C₁₀₋₁₈ fatty acids). Fatty acids are not fatty acid esters. As regards the succinate esters, they, too, are not fatty acid esters, as explained below.

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A fatty acid is a saturated or unsaturated monocarboxylic acid. See Appendix 2 which consists of a definition of the terms "fatty acid" and "fatty ester" from "Hawley's Condensed Chemical Dictionary", Twelfth Edition, Revised by Richard J. Lewis, Sr., Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York (1993), pages 507 and 508. In contrast, succinic acid is not a monocarboxylic acid; it is a dicarboxylic acid, as set forth in the definition of succinic acid which appears on the copy of page 1099 of the aforementioned dictionary and constituting Appendix B.

Thus, the Scialla et al. patent, which is the only patent cited by the Examiner as disclosing fatty acid esters, does not disclose, in fact, a fatty acid ester and, accordingly, the patent does not anticipate applicant's claims.

It is submitted respectfully that added Claim 63 overcomes the Examiner's §112 rejection of Claim 34.

In view of the above, an early and favorable Action is requested respectfully.

This Reply is accompanied by the filing of a "Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a)".

Respectfully submitted,



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SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

Application No. 09/936,974

December 22, 2003
Attorney Docket No. P25,400 USAAdded ClaimsBases for Added Claim;
Originally filed Claims/Text of application

41	Claims 6 and 7
42	Claim 3
43	Claim 4
44	Claim 5
45	page 5, lines 23 to 26
46	Claim 6
47	page 6, lines 1 to 5
48	Claim 7
49	Claim 7
50	Claim 8
51	Claim 8
52	page 7, lines 12 to 16
53	Claim 9
54	Claim 10
55	Claim 11
56	Claim 11
57	page 8, lines 13 to 17
58	Claim 12
59	Claim 15
60	page 3, lines 12 to 15
61	page 9, lines 4 to 8
62	Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 3
63	Claims 13 and 1
64	Claims 5, 6, 7, 8, and 3
65	Claim 13
66	page 9, lines 9 to 14
67	Claim 13

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP

Application No. 09/936,974

December 22, 2003
Attorney Docket No. P25,400 USAAdded ClaimsBases for Added Claim,
Originally filed Claims/Text of application

68	page 10, lines 3 to 8
69	page 10, lines 3 to 8
70	Claim 15
71	Claim 16
72	Claim 16
73	Claim 17
74	Claim 18
75	Claim 19
76	Claim 19
77	page 12, lines 3 to 10
78	page 12, lines 3 to 10
79	page 12, lines 15 to 21
80	page 12, lines 3 to 21
81	page 12, lines 3 to 10
82	page 11, lines 1 to 6
83	page 6, lines 6 to 8

Hawley's
Condensed Chemical
Dictionary

TWELFTH EDITION

Revised by
Richard J. Lewis, Sr.



VAN NOSTRAND REINHOLD COMPANY
New York

Faraday. Faraday was in many respects the exemplar of a true scientist, combining meticulous effort and interpretive genius.

Faraday. The quantity of electricity that can deposit (or dissolve) one gram-equivalent weight of a substance during electrolysis (approximately 96,500 coulombs).

farnesol. (generic name for 3,7,11-trimethyl-2,6,10-dodecatrienol). CAS: 4602-84-0. $C_{15}H_{26}OH$.

Properties: Colorless liquid, delicate floral odor, soluble in three volumes of 70% alcohol, d 0.885 (15C), bp 145-146C (3 mm Hg). Combustible. **Derivation:** Found in nature in many flowers and essential oils such as cassia, neroli, cananga, rose, balsams, ambrette seed.

Use: Perfumery, flavoring, insect hormone.

fast. (1) Descriptive of a dye or pigment whose color is not impaired by prolonged exposure to light, steam, high temperature, or other environmental conditions. Inorganic pigments are normally superior in this respect to organic dyes. (2) In nuclear technology, the term refers to neutrons moving at the speed at which they emerge from a ruptured nucleus, as opposed to "slow" or thermal neutrons whose speed has been reduced by impinging on a neutral substance called a moderator. Fast neutrons are used in breeder reactors.

fast atom bombardment. (FAB). One of several techniques for ionizing solids from solutions. In FAB, a thin film of the dissolved solid to be analyzed is bombarded with fast atoms. These dislodge ions by impact, which are then analyzed by mass spectroscopy. Peptide ions with a molecular weight of approximately 6000 have been produced and analyzed by this method.

fat. A glyceryl ester of higher fatty acids such as stearic and palmitic. Such esters and their mixtures are solids at room temperatures and exhibit crystalline structure. Lard and tallow are examples. There is no chemical difference between a fat and an oil, the only distinction being that fats are solid at room temperature and oils are liquid. The term "fat" usually refers to triglycerides specifically, whereas "lipid" is all-inclusive.

See also lipid.

fat dyes. Oil-soluble dyes for candles, wax, etc.

fatigue. Incremental weakening of a material as a result of repeated cycles of stresses that are far lower than its breaking load, ending in failure. For metals, to which the term usually refers, the

number of low-stress cycles may be of the order of 10^7 . Failure is due to development of cumulative imperfections in the crystal structure, with consequent minute interior cracks. Gear failure is often caused by fatigue. It has been reported in experimental windmills for power generation in which steel blades have failed after a few hundred hours of operation due to centrifugal stress. In elastomeric materials, fatigue involves complete dissipation of their resilient energy by repeated cycles of low-order stresses.

fat liquoring agent. An oil-in-water emulsion usually made from raw oils such as neatsfoot, cod, etc., made soluble by dispersing agents such as sulfonated oils.

Use: Leather processing to replace natural oils removed from hides by tanning operations. See also neatsfoot oil, emulsion.

fat splitting. See hydrolysis.

fatty acid. A carboxylic acid derived from or contained in an animal or vegetable fat or oil. All fatty acids are composed of a chain of alkyl groups containing from 4 to 22 carbon atoms (usually even-numbered) and characterized by a terminal carboxyl group $-COOH$. The generic formula for all above acetic is $CH_3(CH_2)_xCOOH$ (the carbon atom count includes the carboxyl group). Fatty acids may be saturated or unsaturated (olefinic), and either solid, semi-solid, or liquid. They are classed among the lipids together with soap and waxes.

Saturated: A fatty acid in which the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain are connected by single bonds. The most important of these are butyric (C_4), lauric (C_{12}), palmitic (C_{16}), and stearic (C_{18}). They have a variety of special uses (see specific entry). Stearic acid leads all other fatty acids in industrial use, primarily as a dispersing agent and accelerator activator in rubber products and in soaps.

Unsaturated: A fatty acid in which there are one or more double bonds between the carbon atoms in the alkyl chain. These acids are usually vegetable-derived and consist of alkyl chains containing 18 or more carbon atoms with the characteristic end group $-COOH$. Most vegetable oils are mixtures of several fatty acids or their glycerides; the unsaturation accounts for the broad chemical utility of these substances, especially of drying oils. The most common unsaturated acids are oleic, linoleic, and linolenic (all C_{18}). Safflower oil is high in linoleic acid, peanut oil contains 21% linoleic acid, olive oil is 38% oleic acid, palmitoleic acid is abundant in fish oils. Aromatic fatty acids are now available. See phenylstearic acid.

Note: Linoleic, linolenic, and arachidonic acids are called essential fatty acids by biochemists be-

FATTY ACID ENOL ESTER

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cause such acids are necessary nutrients that are not synthesized in the animal body.

Use: Special soaps, heavy-metal soap, lubricants, paints and lacquers (drying oils), candles, salad oil, shortening, synthetic detergents, cosmetics, emulsifiers.

For further details, refer to Fatty Acid Producers Council, 475 Park Ave. South, NY, NY 10016.

fatty acid enol ester. A fatty acid reacted with enolic form of acetone for the purpose of increasing the chemical reactivity of the acid. Stearic acid (18-carbon) combined with acetone (3-carbon) gives isopropenyl stearate (21-carbon). This is effective in making the fatty stearoyl group available for synthesis of polymers, medicinals, and the like.

See also fatty ester.

fatty acid pitch. A by-product residue from (1) soap stock and candle stock manufacture, (2) refining of vegetable oils, (3) refining of refuse greases, (4) refining of wool grease.

Properties: Dark brown to black, properties analogous to complex hydrocarbons, contains fixed carbon (5-35%), soluble in naphtha and carbon disulfide.

Use: Manufacture of black paints and varnishes, tarred papers, printers' rolls, rubber filing agent, impregnating agent, electrical insulations, marine caulking, waterproofing, sealant.

fatty alcohol. A primary alcohol (from C_8 to C_{20}), usually straight chain. High-molecular weight-alcohols are produced synthetically by the Oxo and Ziegler processes. Those from C_8 to C_{11} are oily liquids; those greater than C_{11} are solids. Other methods of production are (1) reduction of vegetable seed oils and their fatty acids with sodium, (2) catalytic hydrogenation at elevated temperatures and pressures, and (3) hydrolysis of spermaceti and sperm oil by saponification and vacuum fractional distillation. The more important commercial saturated alcohols are octyl, decyl, lauryl, myristyl, cetyl, and stearyl. The commercially important unsaturated alcohols, such as oleyl, linoleyl, and linolenyl, are also normally included in this group. The odor tends to disappear as the chain length increases.

Use: Solvent for fats, waxes, gums and resins; pharmaceutical salves and lotions, lube oil additives, detergents and emulsifiers, textile anti-static and finishing agents, plasticizers, nonionic surfactants, cosmetics.

fatty amine. A normal aliphatic amine derived from fats and oils. May be saturated or unsaturated, primary, secondary or tertiary, but the alkyl groups are straight-chain and have an even

number of carbons in each. The length varies from 8 to 22 carbon atoms.

Derivation: Fatty acids are treated with ammonia and heated to form fatty acid amides which are converted to nitriles and reduced to the amine.

Use: Organic bases, soaps, plasticizers, tire cords, fabric softeners, water-resistant asphalt, hair conditioners, cosmetics, medicinals.

fatty ester. A fatty acid with the active hydrogen replaced by the alkyl group of a monohydric alcohol. The esterification of a fatty acid, $RCOOH$, by an alcohol, $R'OH$ yields the fatty ester $RCOOR'$. The most common alcohol used is methanol, yielding the methyl ester $RCOOCH_3$. The methyl esters of fatty acids have higher vapor pressures than the corresponding acids and are distilled more easily.

fatty nitrile. (RCN). An organic cyanide derived from a fatty acid.

Derivation: Fatty acids are treated with ammonia and heated to form fatty acid amides which are converted to nitriles.

Use: Intermediates for fatty amines, lube oil additives, plasticizers.

faujasite. $Na_2CaO \cdot Al_2O_3 \cdot 5SiO_2 \cdot 10H_2O$.

A mineral.

Use: As a zeolite or molecular sieve.

Favorskii-Babayan synthesis. Synthesis of acetylenic alcohols from ketones and terminal acetylenes in the presence of anhydrous alkali.

Favorskii rearrangement. Base-catalyzed rearrangement of α -haloketones to acids or esters. The rearrangement of α, α' -dibromocyclohexanones to 1-hydroxycyclopentanecarboxylic acids, followed by oxidation to the ketones, is known as the Wallach degradation.

FBR. Abbreviation for fast breeder reactor.
See breeder.

FCC. (1) Abbreviation for Food Chemicals Codex, a publication giving specifications and test methods for chemicals used in foods. (2) Abbreviation for fluid-cracking catalyst as used in the petroleum refining industry. Examples are powdered silica-alumina in which alumina is impregnated with dry synthetic silica gel and various natural clays impregnated with alumina.

FDA. Abbreviation for Food and Drug Administration.

FD&C color. A series of colorants permitted in food products, marking inks, etc., certified by the FDA. Among the more important are the following:

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SUCROSE

CAS: 1395-21-7 and 9014-01-1.
 Properties: Light-colored prills.
 Hazard: TLV: ceiling of 0.00006 mg/m³ in air.
 Use: Laundry detergent additive.

succinaldehyde. (butanedial). CAS: 638-37-9.
 $\text{OHCCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHO}$.
 Properties: Liquid, d 1.064 (20/4C), bp 169-170C, refr index 1.4254, soluble in water, alcohol, and ether. The name succinaldehyde is often incorrectly used in commerce as a synonym for succinic anhydride.

succinic acid. (butanedioic acid).
 CAS: 110-15-6. $\text{CO}_2\text{H}(\text{CH}_2)_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$.
 Properties: Colorless crystals, slightly soluble in water, soluble in alcohol and ether, odorless, acid taste, d 1.552, mp 185C, bp 235C. Combustible.
 Derivation: Fermentation of ammonium tartrate.
 Grade: Technical, CP, FCC.
 Use: Organic synthesis, manufacture of lacquers, dyes, esters for perfumes, photography, in foods as a sequestrant, buffer, neutralizing agent.

succinic acid-2,2-dimethylhydrazide. (diaminonitrile). $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNHCOCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$.
 Properties: White crystals, mp 155C, pH 3.8 (500 ppm), soluble in water, insoluble in simple hydrocarbons.
 Use: Growth retardant used in greenhouses, retards premature fruit drop.

succinic acid peroxide. CAS: 123-23-9.
 $(\text{HOOCCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CO})_2\text{O}_2$.
 Properties: Fine, white, odorless powder; mp 125C (decomposes). Moderately soluble in water, insoluble in petroleum solvents and benzene.
 Hazard: Fire risk in contact with combustible materials, oxidizing agent. Toxic by ingestion and inhalation, irritant to skin.
 Use: Polymerization catalyst, deodorants, anti-septics.

succinic anhydride. (2,5-diketotetrahydrofuran; succinyl oxide; butanedioic anhydride).
 CAS: 108-30-5.



Properties: Colorless or light-colored needles or flakes, d 1.104 (20/4C), mp 120C, bp 261C, soluble in alcohol and chloroform, insoluble in water, sublimates at 115C at 5 mm Hg pressure. Combustible.
 Grade: Distilled.
 Use: Manufacture of chemicals, pharmaceuticals, esters; hardener for resins, starch modifier in foods.

succinimide. (2,5-diketopyrrolidine).
 CAS: 123-56-8.



Properties: Colorless crystals or thin, light-tan flakes, nearly odorless, sweet taste, mp 125-127C, bp 287-288C, d 1.41, soluble in hot and cold water and in sodium hydroxide solution, slightly soluble in alcohol, insoluble in ether and chloroform.

Derivation: Conversion of succinic acid to succinamide, followed by heating; ammonia splits off to give a diacyl-substituted derivative (succinimide).

Grade: Purified, technical.

Use: Growth stimulants for plants, organic synthesis.

succinodimide. See N-iodosuccinimide.

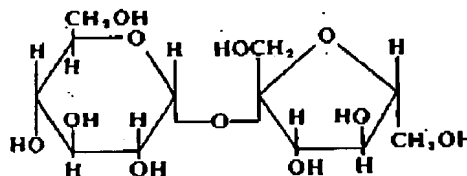
succinonitrile. See ethylene cyanide.

succinyl oxide. See succinic anhydride.

sucrase. See invertase.

sucroblanc. A mixture used to defecate and bleach sugar solution in one operation. Contains high-test calcium hypochlorite, calcium superphosphate, lime, and Filtercel (a grade of "Celite").

sucrose. (table sugar; saccharose).
 CAS: 57-50-1. $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$.



Properties: Hard, white, dry crystals, lumps, or powder; sweet taste; odorless. Soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol, solutions are neutral to litmus, d 1.5877, decomposes 160-186C, optical rotation +33.6 degrees. Combustible.

Derivation: By crushing and extraction of sugar cane (*Saccharum officinarum*) with water or extraction of the sugar-beet (*Beta vulgaris*) with water, evaporating, and purifying with lime, carbon, and various liquids. Also obtainable from sorghum by conventional methods. Occurs in low percentages in honey and maple sap.

Grade: Reagent, USP, technical, refined.

Hazard: TLV: 10 mg/m³ in air.

Use: Sweetener in foods and soft drinks, manufacture of syrups, source of invert sugar, confectionery, preserves and jams, demulcent, phar-

Appendix B

mail entity

CIPO
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE
JAN 23 2004

COPY

Inventor / Tr. Appl. Mark Gary Mullane
 Client Spartanville + Rushford

Appl. No. 9936,974 Filing Date 3/17/2000
 Docket No. 125,400 USA Int. AB/SH

Title of Invention / Mark Cleaning formulation

The Patent / Trademark Office is in receipt of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit/Declaration, 37 CFR	<input type="checkbox"/> PCT Application, transmittal, request & fee sheet
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment, 37 CFR	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition under 37 CFR
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment to allege use	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition for cancellation
<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal notice/Appeal brief	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> Appointment of domestic representative	<input type="checkbox"/> Priority claim
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment & cover sheet	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal application
<input type="checkbox"/> Cert. of correction request	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reply, 37 CFR
<input type="checkbox"/> Cert. of Exp. Mailing, Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for extension of time to file opposition notice
No. _____	(in triplicate)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cert. of mailing, Dated <u>12/22/2003</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Section 8/Section 15 Affidavit/Declaration
Charge deposit account, in duplicate	<input type="checkbox"/> Specimens
Check \$ <u>210.00</u> for <u>extension fee</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Statement of use
Demand for PCT examination	<input type="checkbox"/> Trademark/Service Mark Application
Extension of time petition <u>2</u> months	Declaration
Extension of time to file Statement of Use	Power of attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> IDS (information disclosure statement)	Drawing
PTO Form 1449: # of pages enc. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Verified statement/Small entity <u>SD</u>
# of references enc. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawal
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue fee transmittal & advance order	Other <u>Check - \$207.00 - Extra</u>
Letter _____	<u>Claim fee</u>
Maintenance fee transmittal	<u>29 DEC 2003</u>
Opposition notice (in duplicate)	
Patent Application	
# of pages _____ # of pages of claims _____	
# of sheets of drawings _____	
Declaration/Oath: _____ signed _____ unsigned _____	
Transmittal letter _____	

March 3, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re/ Application of Mark Gary Mullane
U.S. Application No. 09/936,974
Filed September 18, 2001

IMPROVEMENTS TO MECHANICAL COUPLING DEVICES

(Atty. Docket No. P25,400 USA)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, March 3, 2004, as First-Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Sara Harvell

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Transmittal Letter

✓ Sir:

filed
This follows a conference by telephone on March 1, 2004 between Examiner Webb and the undersigned. Pursuant to the request of the Examiner, there are forwarded
✓ herewith copies of the following documents, the originals of which were filed previously,
are but not present in the Patent Office's file of the present application:
Λ

Application No. 09/936,974

March 3, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P25,400 USA

- (A) "Reply to Examiner's Action, Dated July 21, 2003, Under 37 C.F.R. §111" and "Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)", each dated December 22, 2003; and
- (B) "Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97, and 1.98", dated January 20, 2004.

✓ Enclosed also ^{are} a copy of a postal card which accompanied the filing of the documents of (A) above and which bears the stamped Patent Office receipt date of "29 Dec 2003"

✓ and a copy of a postal card which accompanied the filing of the documents of (B) above and which bears the stamped Patent Office receipt date of "Jan 23 2004".

During the aforementioned conference, the Examiner indicated that it was not necessary for applicant to forward to the Examiner copies of the documents which are referred to in Form PTO-1449 (Modified) which accompanied the filing of the ^{re}afformentioned Information Disclosure Statement. It is requested respectfully that the Examiner initial the Form and return a copy of it to applicant upon consideration of the documents.

Respectfully submitted,
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